

## Correspondence of the Freeman—From the Third Vermont Regiment.

CAMP LYON, near Washington, D. C., Aug. 26th, 1861.

Mr. Editor:—Seated on a bar that once contained pilot bread, with the cover of a cheese-box resting on my lap for a table, I am writing a line for the *Freeman*. Since I last wrote you it has become certainly known that the Rebels did intend to attack us last week, but the elements have been against them, as the heavy rains we had between the 12th and 20th of this month caused so great a rise of the Potomac that it became an utter impossibility for them to ford it at any point. It is thought by many now that the Confederate forces will attempt to cross over into Maryland in the vicinity of Annapolis, or below that point, and they expect the Union forces will rise in Maryland, and then they will cut off railroad and telegraphic communication with the North, and advance on Washington. One thing is certain, they will do it soon or not at all, as the recent order from the War Department calls on all the enlisted soldiers in certain States to be forwarded with dispatch to Washington, where those who have not already been will be uniformed and equipped. It is estimated that some 15,000 or 100,000 will soon be here in pursuance of said call. Of this fact old Jeff and Beauregard are well aware.

There was a general inspection of this brigade on Wednesday last, by Gen. McClellan, accompanied by "Old Abe," Secretary Cameron, Seward and Chase. They said our camp was in excellent condition.

The largest Rebel force between our lines and Manassas is in the vicinity of Fairfax Court House. The Rebels come close to our pickets nearly every day, scouting about, seeking whom they may catch to press into their service, and plundering the property of Union men. Three Companies of our infantry, one of cavalry and one of artillery went over into Virginia, some five miles, the other day, at the request of a Union man, and drew off the remainder of his hay, as the Rebels had come a few days previous, and drawn off over one-half of it, and all his grain. Union men are leaving the sacred soil of Virginia every day—leaving their homes, their houses, and orchards hanging full of peaches and apples, to the mercy of the Rebels. They had rather lose their property than fall into the embrace of the serpents themselves.

Oliver Kidder, 3d Sergeant of Company B, died on the 23d at Georgetown Hospital. He was from Franksburg. He is the first one that has died from sickness since we went into encampment at St. Johnsbury the 8th of June last, which is rather a remarkable circumstance. We are the most of us—I mean the 3d Regiment—in good health, and are in a fair way to live until we are called into battle, as we are furnished with sufficient quantity of good, wholesome food, and the State of Vermont has furnished each one of us with a straw tick which we have filled and find much more comfortable than lying on the ground. The 2d Vermont with the sick and one Company of well ones, has been stationed upon the river a few miles, the past week to guard a ford, but the stay will not be permanent I am told. No more at present.

D. M. M.

Co. F, 3d VERMONT REGIMENT V. M.

## Speech of Hon. Joseph Holt.

Fellow Citizens:—I came to Boston, as do many American travelers, not merely to look upon the city—beautiful in itself—upon its monuments, or upon the magnificent landscapes, in which like a jewel it is set, but also to revive, if I might, the glow of my patriotism amid the thrilling associations which cluster around the cradle of the American Revolution. (Applause.) Here is a garden of memories which to the patriot can never lose their fragrance; here are altars whose fires, though first kindled in behalf of freedom many years, still burn brighter and brighter, (applause) for no true son of America can press the soil of Bunker Hill without feeling his patriotism increased and strengthened. (Cheers.)

I little expected to attract such an assemblage to myself, and it is therefore with a feeling of surprise that I receive your cordial welcome. Unconscious as I am of having done anything to merit this high mark of your favor, be assured that I am most grateful for it. The strains of your music and the shouts of your applause will linger in my heart long after they have been forgotten by yourselves. I am thankful for your recognition of my fidelity to our common country. Most grateful am I for the kind allusion to my native State of Kentucky, whose star—so long obscured by the influence of baneful politicians—is now about to shine forth with the renewed lustre of other days. (Applause.)

Kentucky has assumed her present position under no promptings of passion, but calmly and after a careful review of the whole field. She will cling to the Union amid its trials and disasters as she has clung to it in its triumph and success. (Applause.) That which she has so nobly asserted through the ballot-box, it is her manifest duty to make good upon the battlefield. And that duty—already begun—will be faithfully performed upon the meeting of her Legislature, which convenes in a few days. (Applause.) Full will be the measure of my joy when I shall see the patriotic soldiers of Massachusetts and Kentucky meeting and shaking hands upon the same fields of danger, and rebuking by their union those traitorous men who have long striven to render them aliens to each other. (Great applause.)

I am gratified that during the somewhat extended tour I have recently made, I have nowhere heard the public voice faint or the public purpose falter in the vigorous prosecution of the war until the stars and stripes shall wave once more over every flag-staff from which they have been torn. (Applause.) Nowhere have I heard the word compromise—(enthusiastic applause)—a word which cannot now be uttered except by disloyal lips, or by those speaking directly in the interests of rebellion. (Applause.) So long as the rebels have arms in their hands, there is nothing left to compromise but the honor of the country and the integrity of the government, and no man with a soul above that of a coward is prepared for such submission. (Great applause.)

It cannot be disguised that we stand confronted by great national dangers and great national calamities. Eleven members of our Union are in open, and thus far successful, revolt; and an army of perhaps 150,000 men, breathing vengeance and slaughter, is menacing the safety of

Washington. From this pressing peril no brilliant declamation, no fervid oratory can deliver us. Nothing but the sword can now save this country from the last catastrophe that can befall a nation. The enemy has been desperate, and we can no longer question his purposes or valor in battle. History has recorded that Calais and his co-conspirators in guilt fell with their faces to the enemy, and so probably will fall the rebel leaders of the South. Let us therefore be prepared for this, and the more earnest, the more prompt, the more united we now are the briefer will be the struggle. (Applause.) All delay will strengthen rebellion, and is fraught with danger to ourselves.

But if from any cause this contest is to be a prolonged one, let us not seek to conceal from ourselves its consequences, and look the worst in the face. Your ships may have to burn their sails on many seas, and the guns may spring up in the now busy marts of commerce. Bankruptcy may be wide-spread, and the wail of sorrow may go up not only from hamlets and villages, but from cities and states, for true and brave men who have laid down their lives for their country. But our institutions are well worth these sacrifices and all that we can possibly make. All that we are, all that we have, is the fruit of these institutions, and all that we may devote to their support, if we are successful, they will give back to us and to our children increased a hundred, nay a thousand fold. (Applause.)

But even now, in the full shadow of this threatened destruction—even this night and this hour—we could have peace by laying down our country and our flag in the dust beneath the remorseless feet of traitors. ("Never," "Never.") But how can we do this, seeing that the graves of our fathers are yet with us, and Bunker Hill speaks with a voice that cannot be stifled? (Applause.) If we falter, we fall; and not only will Washington be sacked, but your fields laid desolate. The tone of the Southern press and the developments of the past few weeks, justify me in this declaration. If, therefore, we think of our land, of our gold; if we think of our merchandise and our pleasant homes in contrast with the honor and integrity of our country, we are lost and shall perish suddenly and ignominiously. But if true to ourselves, as I believe we will be—if true to the memory of the past and the grandeur of the present—our arms will triumph, and the Union sentiment of the South will make that triumph complete. And after this turmoil of battle and bloodshed has ceased, there will rise a future for our country bright as the rainbow that spans Niagara's waters. (Applause.)

A single word more and I will relieve you. One of the most fearful details which has been encountered in the prosecution of this war is the disloyalty in our own midst. This is true of Washington and the border States, but it is in a degree prevalent everywhere, and to this is due much of the discouragement under which the nation is suffering. The country is rejoicing now at the measures which the President is taking to subdue this fruitful source of weakness and defeat. It is in vain to expect men to work at the pumps while men with augers are on board the Ship of State, and are continually boring holes in her bottom. (Applause.) The dismembering of this Union which has been the source of all our greatness and joy, can be welcomed by no true man. It involves all of which we have long and justly been proud, and the complete ruin of that inheritance which we received from our fathers and would transmit to our descendants.

When the wise man of old, sitting in judgment upon the rival claims of two women to a child, decided that it should be out in twain, it was the false mother who rejoiced in the judgment, while the true mother preferred to save the life of the child. So the man who is willing that this Union should be severed by the sword of treason, may have been born upon American soil, but he has not an American heart. The true son of the country, like the true mother, prefers the Union above all considerations. (Applause.)

In taking leave of you, fellow-citizens, I thank you again and again for this distinguished honor.

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Newbury, Vt., July 22d, 1861.

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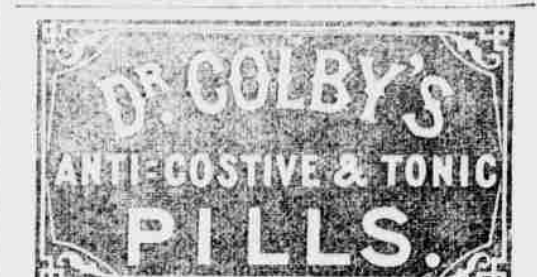
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Prepared by Dr. M. E. COLBY, Stenstead, C. E., and  
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